

**REMARKS**

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

No claims are being canceled or added.

Claims 1-15 are being amended.

This amendment amends claims in this application. A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claims remain under examination in the application, is presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier.

After amending the claims as set forth above, claims 1-15 are now pending in this application.

Applicant greatly appreciates the indication in the Office Action that claims 1-15 contain allowable subject matter.

Before turning to the issues raised in the Office Action, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner consider the Information Disclosure Statement filed on May 23, 2000, by providing Applicant's representative, in the next correspondence from the PTO, with an initialed copy of the PTO 1449 form submitted with that IDS. Also, the PTO is requested to acknowledge receipt of the priority documents filed on May 23, 2000 in the next correspondence from the PTO.

In the Office Action, claims 1-15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite, for the reasons set forth on pages 2 and 3 of the Office Action. By way of this amendment and reply, claims 1-15 have been amended to overcome this rejection, whereby it is believed that the scope of these claims has not been narrowed by way of these amendments. It is respectfully submitted that presently pending claims 1-15 fully conform to the requirements set forth in 35 U.S.C. Section 112, second paragraph.

Since there are no other issues raised in the Office Action, Applicant believes that the present application is now in condition for allowance, and an early indication of allowance is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

Date

January 12, 2004

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